GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1865
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2003
LIST OF NON-SENSITIVE ITEMS FOR TARIFF CONCESSIONS FROM ASEAN
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalized the list of non-sensitive items for possible tariff concessions to be sought fron ASEAN in exchange of similar list presented by the members of the ASEAN;

(b) whether suggestions were invited from the member countries of ASEAN with regard to the list to be included in the proposed regional trade and investment agreement so as to ensure that India`s domestic industry is not in any way affected in the matter of exports to ASEAN;

(c) if so, the details of the list finalised in this regard;

(d) whether the same has the approval of the ASEAN countries; and

(e) the extent to which the proposed items included in the list are to benefit the country in the export of such items?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): ASEAN India Economic Linkages Task Force (AIELTF) has been mandated to prepare a draft Framework Agreement to enhance ASEAN India Trade Economic Cooperation and recommend measures and integration towards closer economic partnership. The Framework Agreement covers the provisions of Free Trade Agreement in goods, services and investments between India and ASEAN. One of the components of the Framework Agreement is an Early Harvest Programme (EHP) as a confidence building measure between India and ASEAN. Discussions are continuing with the members of ASEAN to finalise the agreed common list of items on which tariff concessions can be exchanged under the EHP, with the objective of enhancing the trade between India and ASEAN. The common endeavour is to exchange concession on an agreed common list of items in such a way as to achieve a trade coverage of 5-10% of the total bilateral India-ASEAN trade volume. The EHP items will get subsumed into the full-fledged FTA on goods to be negotiated and finalised subsequent to signing of the Framework Agreement.